

unemployment benefits run out simply because there are not enough jobs to go around. This has happened to 1.6 million Americans. They need our help.

Last week, Congress overwhelmingly passed legislation to immediately extend unemployment insurance for an additional 13 weeks. Today, that bill will be included in the emergency supplemental. This important legislation deserves strong bipartisan support.

With 325,000 jobs lost already this year and 3.8 million workers out of a job, it is imperative we take action now. We must continue to look for immediate solutions to our economic troubles. Extending unemployment insurance is one of the most cost-effective and fast-acting ways to stimulate the economy because the money is spent quickly.

Madam Speaker, President Bush and his allies in Congress should drop their opposition to this bill so we can help millions of Americans who are struggling with this recession economy.

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#### STORMS AND GAS PRICES

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, Hoosiers are struggling in the aftermath of some of the worst storms in our Nation's history. But even amidst the cleanup of last weekend, I was still hearing about gasoline prices.

At more than \$4 a gallon in Indiana, working families, small businesses and family farms are hurting. Everywhere I went I heard the same thing, and it wasn't nationalize our refineries—as the Democrats are apparently planning to do—but the American people I heard from Indiana said drill for more oil on American soil. Hoosiers know the only way to lessen our dependence on foreign oil is to give the American people more access to American oil.

I say to my countrymen, call your Congressman right now and tell this Congress, drill more, drill now, and we will pay less.

#### HUGE VICTORY FOR AMERICAN SECURITY, AMERICAN WORKERS AND AMERICAN TAXPAYERS

(Mr. LIPINSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, yesterday we witnessed a huge victory for American security, American workers and American taxpayers.

The GAO found what many of us suspected all along about the Air Force tanker decision. A flawed process unfairly disadvantaged the American-made Boeing tanker. The Boeing aircraft met or exceeded all of the Air Force criteria. An independent study found that it would create at least twice as many American jobs including, 3,300 in Illinois.

Other studies showed the Boeing aircraft to be 25 percent more fuel efficient than the Airbus, resulting in a savings of nearly \$30 billion and over 2 billion gallons of fuel. On top of all this, I believe that we should not be exporting our national security.

So today I urge my colleagues to join me in urging the Air Force to listen to the GAO, reopen the process and select the best tanker for America.

#### SKYROCKETING PRICE OF GAS

(Mr. LUCAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, I come before you today to address the skyrocketing price of gas in Oklahoma, where the price for a gallon of gasoline at a station in my hometown of Cheyenne is now \$3.95. This may be lower than the national average, but Oklahomans are actually paying more of their income on gas than people in areas where gas prices are higher.

According to a study by Common Current, Oklahoma City is ranked last in the ability to weather an oil and gas crisis. This is evidenced by the fact that families in Oklahoma's Third District are spending between 7 and 10 percent of their income on gas.

Congress has an opportunity to make sure that Americans don't have to choose between putting gas in their cars and necessities for their families through H.R. 2279, Expand American Refining Capacity on Closed Military Installations Act.

I ask my colleagues, support H.R. 2279. Sign the discharge petition. Bring this bill to the floor for a vote now.

#### MIDDLE CLASS AMERICAN FAMILIES ARE STRUGGLING

(Ms. CASTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, middle class families across America are struggling with the rising cost of health care, housing and gas prices brought on by the White House economic policies of the last 8 years.

Unfortunately, Big Oil continues to have a stranglehold over our country's energy policy. The latest proposal from their allies in the White House and other prominent Republicans is to drill for oil just off of our beaches.

But oil companies already have access to 68 million acres that they are not actively tapping, and the administration's own Energy Department reports that opening up new areas would have no impact on the price of gas.

True leaders are working on long-term solutions to reduce our dependence on oil and gas, promote conservation and new renewable technology. This has been the fundamental failure on energy policy of the Bush administration, and now Americans are paying the price. Do not reward Big Oil's latest attempt to grab even more.

Join us in fighting harmful speculation in petroleum markets and our efforts to end the massive, wasteful taxpayer subsidies to big oil companies. Short-term political gimmicks are no substitute for real leadership.

#### THIS IS NOT A FAILED ECONOMY

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, this is not a failed economy. We are not in a recession. What a shame that Democrats want to talk down the economy.

Under a Democratic President, 6 percent unemployment was considered full employment. Unemployment now is 5.5 percent, not indicative of a failed economy. What is a problem are high gas prices brought to us by a failed Democratically controlled Congress, failed Democratically controlled Congress, a do-nothing-to-reduce-gas-prices Democratically controlled Congress.

Americans want us to do something to reduce gas prices, but Democrats continue to stonewall because they think they can blame President Bush and help themselves. What a shame.

We can bring down prices by producing American energy products. Let's do it now.

#### FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAID PARENTAL LEAVE ACT

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, with Mother's Day and Father's Day behind us, it's time for us to practice what we preach. If we truly believe in the value of family, then we need to value the work that families do.

U.S. workers, unlike most workers worldwide, do not have the right to take paid time off to care for the birth of a new child. That is why the House should offer a model to the rest of the country by passing the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act when it comes to the floor today. This bill provides 4 weeks of paid time off for all Federal employees to care for a new child.

This landmark bill will be the first to recognize that parents need their earnings, even as they need time off, to care for their new child.

Congress's action on family values should more than match its rhetoric. We should be the role model for all employers.

According to a Harvard study, the U.S. ranks 169th in the world in terms of providing paid time off. We are tied with Swaziland. TOM DAVIS is bipartisan and has been a cosponsor for 10 years. Let's pass it unanimously in a bipartisan recognition of family values.